



King County

July 2004

Vol. IV, No. I

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**King County Council
Committee Work**

- Budget & Fiscal Management Committee (vice chair)
- Growth Management & Unincorporated Areas Committee (vice chair)
- Labor, Operations & Technology Committee
- Regional Policy Committee
- Regional Transit Committee
- Regional Water Quality Committee
- Transportation Committee

**Regional Committee
Memberships**

- Board of Health
- Cedar River Council, co-chair
- Central Puget Sound Economic Development District
- Eastside Transportation Partnership
- Growth Management Planning Council
- Puget Sound Regional Council's Growth Management Policy Board
- Regional Transportation Investment District, Executive Board alternate
- Habitat for Humanity Board of Directors
- Cedar River Habitat Conservation Plan Advisory Board
- Lake Sammamish State Park Advisory Board
- Eastside Human Services Forum

COMMUNITY NEWS FROM YOUR KING COUNTY
COUNCILMEMBER FOR DISTRICT 12

DAVID IRONS

Dear Community Members,

The best part about serving as your representative on the Metropolitan King County Council is hearing from you about the problems and concerns of your family and your neighborhood, and then finding ways to solve them. Recently, in response to requests from constituents, I was able to introduce and get unanimous support for legislation correcting shortcomings in the King County Code involving the allowable size for storage sheds and the required "stacking spaces" for vehicles lining up at espresso stands.

Bigger legislative decisions loom for the King County Council this year. We are tackling the transportation challenge from several angles, such as working with other counties on regional transportation infrastructure, and restoring the county's local road funding for Capital Improvement Projects. Each year we are reconsidering the county's role in providing human services, affordable housing, parks and recreation, a better overall adult and juvenile justice system, and health care. The list of issues grows as we wrestle with prioritizing our programs and redefining the county's role as a regional and local service provider. As one of the vice-chairs of the Council's budget committee, and the lead budget negotiator for the Republican caucus, I am working hard to find positive solutions to the budget challenges before us.

Land use legislation is one of the most pressing issues this summer. Earlier this year, the King County Executive proposed four major revisions of land use policies and development regulations, updating the Comprehensive Land Use Plan and Critical Areas Ordinances. These documents are complex to read and to determine how they will affect landowners and residents. To better understand these impacts, I attended the many public hearings conducted throughout the county and listened to many hours of public testimony. Quite a few citizens have expressed great concern about the personal impact the proposed legislation would have on them. Others have urged us to do all we can to protect the environment. As vice-chair of the Growth Management and Unincorporated Areas Committee, I see the challenge of balancing all the goals established under the state's Growth Management Act (GMA) so that we have healthy, vibrant communities as well as natural areas, where we all can live, work and play.

It is an honor to serve you as your representative. I am enjoying the challenges of working through all the legislation that is coming to the Council this year, always keeping in mind consideration of your needs and interests. I encourage you to let me know what is important to you as the county reviews legislation about various county programs and the budget. Also, let me know if I can be of assistance to you regarding any problem or issue.

Sincerely,

King County Councilmember . District 12



Transportation

Highway 169 Corridor Coalition

It is a pleasure to announce that the Highway 169 Corridor Coalition that I helped to bring together last year has been successful in its mission. For years, the Maple Valley Highway (State Route 169) has been neglected.



With support from city officials, school districts and business leaders in Renton, Maple Valley, Black Diamond, and Enumclaw, the state Legislature agreed this

spring to fund \$500,000 of the \$1 million corridor study. More work remains to be done next year to fund the rest of the study.



Senator Jim Horn

For the past several years, the Washington State Department of Transportation requested money from the Legislature to perform a corridor study on Highway 169, the main route for commuting from the rapidly growing communities of Enumclaw, Black Diamond and Maple

Valley. This project was overshadowed by other transportation needs, however, and the money never was appropriated, until this year's organized effort. The corridor study now can proceed to develop alternatives and allow the residents and businesses along this corridor to have a say in their development.

I would especially like to thank Maple Valley Mayor Laure Iddings and our state legislators,

Rep. Jay Rodne on the House Transportation Committee and Senate Highways and Transportation Committee Chair Sen. Jim Horn. Their hard work brought statewide attention to this vital transportation corridor. This study will begin the work of real congestion relief in the Highway 169 corridor, and I look forward to working with these leaders again in 2005.



Representative Jay Rodne



Maple Valley Mayor Laure Iddings

Issaquah Highlands Park-&-Ride

Ridership at the interim Park & Ride lot at Issaquah Highlands has grown significantly with the beginning of Sound Transit Express bus service last fall. Design of a permanent 1,000-stall parking garage, to be located across the street from the



interim lot, is almost complete. Construction is scheduled to begin in the fall of this year with completion scheduled for 2005. Years of effort will result finally in more options for commuting from the Sammamish Plateau and Issaquah Highlands. I eagerly await the day when residents can use this garage and connect with bus service in all parts of the county, and I will endeavor to keep you updated on the progress of this project.

Transportation

Elliott Bridge

After several years of planning, it is a pleasure to announce that construction of the new Elliott Bridge finally is scheduled to begin June 28, 2004. Completion of the new bridge is scheduled for November 2005.

The new bridge will replace the existing 1913 bridge that carried traffic on 149th Avenue Southeast over the Cedar River to connect with Highway 169. This will allow traffic on the main arterial, 154th Avenue SE, to cross the river and access the highway directly instead of turning on Jones Road to the location of the current bridge.

Significant construction will occur all summer, with two new bridge piers to be finished by Aug. 15. Because of the new location of the bridge, construction should have little impact on current traffic. Some detours may

be necessary on the Cedar River Trail, but approaches to the current bridge will remain open. In 2005, King County will begin construction of new approaches to the bridge from the north and south. Construction of the north bridge approach may require the closure of the intersection of Southeast Jones Road and 154th Place Southeast for about six weeks.

For more information about the Elliott Bridge replacement project, contact the King County Department of Transportation at (206) 263-3792 or on line at www.metrokc.gov/kcdot/roads/projects/elliottbrdg.

Issaquah Valley Trolley

The Issaquah Valley Trolley project aims to put one of its historic trolleys in service on the railroad tracks through Issaquah as soon as possible. A fund-raising campaign is planned to raise enough money for the first phase of the trolley project, which will run from the Issaquah Depot to the Visitor's Center on Gilman Boulevard. About \$250,000 is needed to adapt the carriage of one trolley to standard gauge, improve the generator, upgrade the railroad bridge over the East Fork of Issaquah Creek, and build two platforms for loading passengers. Eventually, an overhead wire could eliminate the need for the generator car, and a new barn will be constructed to house the project's three antique trolleys. A fund-raising rummage sale is scheduled for July 23-25, and donations are needed. For more information about how to help with this project, contact the Issaquah Historical Society at (425) 392-0247 or on line at trolleyweb@issaquahhistory.org.



Roads CIP

King County lost some funding for its Roads Capital Improvement Program in 2002 with the passage of Initiative 776, which eliminated King County's \$15 vehicle license fee. Court appeals delayed implementation of this initiative until 2004. King County now must begin the process of revising the Roads CIP budget to account for a reduction of \$34 million over the next six years.

The King County Executive Ron Sims recently proposed eliminating all projects that add capacity to roadways (totaling \$111 million), while preserving maintenance of existing roads. I am committed to finding creative ways to stretch taxpayer money as far as possible. The voters have spoken and voted to take away a significant funding source. I will work with the King County Council to fund as many projects as the budget allows and to issue bonds as may be reasonable based on responsible financial policies. I am especially committed to finding money to complete construction of the Issaquah-Fall City Road Phase III widening project to Klahanie Boulevard, which the Executive proposes to cut.



Transportation

SE Issaquah Bypass

A Supplemental Draft Environmental Impact Statement (SDEIS) was recently released by the City of Issaquah on the SE Bypass project. It again confirmed that construction of the project would reduce traffic on Front Street by **51%** and it describes the environmental mitigation necessary to comply with state and federal environmental standards.

On July 15th from 5:30 to 8:00 pm at the Issaquah High School Commons (700 – 2nd

Avenue, SE) the City of Issaquah will hold a public hearing to take comments on the recently released SDEIS. They will not be taking comments on whether to build the project and will only be taking comments on the SDEIS itself. You can find the document at many local libraries including the Issaquah and Sammamish libraries or by going on-line at www.ci.issaquah.wa.us. I look forward to hearing all of the comments and moving forward toward a final decision on construction of the SE Bypass.

Parks & Recreation

Lake Sammamish State Park Advisory Committee

This spring, I was appointed to an Advisory Committee created by the Washington State Parks Commission. The committee's purpose is to review the proposed Lake Sammamish State Park Facilities Development Plan and advise the Parks Director and Commission on the future development and management of the park in Issaquah. The committee was established in response to public concerns about the draft plan released last year.

GET INVOLVED!

The committee and parks staff will establish a design competition for the visual layout of various components in the facilities plan. During July, the public will have the opportunity to fill out an on-line survey at the web site listed below, or fill out the survey printed in the Issaquah Press, or get a survey form at the park. The design competition will run from Aug. 5 through Sept. 2, culminating with a televised review during the City of Issaquah's Development Commission meeting. The timeline calls for a recommendation to go to the State Parks and Recreation Commission by October 2004.

This is an exciting process! I encourage you to find out more at: www.parks.wa.gov/plans/lksamm/ Comments and questions can be submitted directly to the state parks staff: Peter.Herzog@parks.wa.gov, (360) 902-8652 phone or (360) 664-0278 fax, P.O. Box 42650, Olympia, WA 98504-2669.

Cedar River Bike Trail



This fall, it will be possible to ride a bike on a newly paved recreation trail all the way to Maple Valley. The long-awaited Cedar River Bike Trail project finally is underway, with the construction bid awarded in June. Bids came in low, so the paving of the gravel trail will extend further than originally planned, from Jones Road in Renton all the way to Witte Road in Maple Valley. Construction of this \$500,000 project is scheduled to begin in July, with completion estimated in 2-1/2 months.

Land Use

Espresso Stand Code

In June, I received unanimous Council support for an ordinance to make it easier for drive-through espresso stands to operate in unincorporated areas of the county. This amendment to the county development code reduces the number of "stacking" spaces required for vehicles lining up to order espresso.

In the works since last year, this ordinance came about after I heard from several espresso stand operators who had run afoul of the county's code. After researching the regulations of other jurisdictions, I proposed modifying our code to more accurately reflect the actual circumstances experi-

enced at espresso stands. The existing code treated drive-through coffee operations the same as any other drive-through restaurant,



requiring space for at least seven vehicles to line up off the public road right-of-way on the way to the drive-up window.

With the prevalence of outlets available to get your

daily latte, it doesn't make sense to assume cars will line up seven deep to wait for coffee. Because the region's coffee culture is a relatively new phenomenon, our development code did not make any allowances for the differences in the way an espresso stand or small restaurant operates. We had to define how an espresso stand is different from other drive-through restaurants in order to bring the code up to date with this evolution of our lifestyle. This is another step forward in my continuing work to support the ability of small-business owners to operate in the unincorporated part of King County.

Unincorporated Area Committees

I would like to thank the many dedicated volunteers who serve on the two Unincorporated Area Councils in District 12. If you live in an unincorporated area and would like to get involved with providing advice and recommendations to the Metropolitan King County Council, please attend your local UAC meeting:

* **Greater Maple Valley UAC**, meets at 7 p.m. the first Monday of each month at King County Police Precinct #3 in Maple Valley. Contact Chair Dick Bonewits at richb2@msn.com. Positions are currently filled for the UAC.

* **Four Creeks UAC**, meets at 7 p.m. the third Wednesday of each month at the May Valley Alliance Church. Contact Chair Edie Jorgensen at edie4creeks@yahoo.com. The UAC currently has several positions up for election which are: # 1 includes Coalfield, Renhill precincts; # 2 includes Tanya, O'Donnell, Ida, Brigid precincts; # 4 includes Husky, Valencia precincts; # 6 includes Cougar Mt., Squak Mt., Hi-Valley precincts; #8 includes Nalia, McDonald precincts; # 9 includes Four Lakes, Matthew, Maple Hills precincts; #10 includes Haas, Colleen, Mirrormont precincts; and At-Large (two positions



open). For further information regarding these positions, please check the web site www.fourcreeks.org or call Election Chairperson Ronda Bryant 425-226-1204, or David Rockabrand 425-235-6305. Deadline for declaring candidacy is September 18, 2004.

Land Use

CAO, Stormwater and Clearing & Grading Updates

The updates to the county's Critical Areas, Stormwater and Clearing & Grading Ordinances currently are under consideration in conjunction with the Comprehensive Plan. These major updates are driven by proposals from the Executive's staff to update land-use regulations, the endangered-species listing of the Puget Sound chinook salmon, and changes in state guidance on stream and wetland designations. In addition, the state Legislature amended the Growth Management Act (GMA) in 1995, requiring counties to "include the best available science in developing policies and development regulations to protect the functions and values of critical areas."

In the past year, I have heard many voices both for and against the Executive's proposals at a number of public hearings and committee

meetings, and via letters, e-mails and personal testimony. Most of the comments I have received to date ask that the regulations be kept as they are today, or if they need to change, the rationale and alternate approaches should be identified. The testimony in support of the proposals not only concurs with the regulations but in certain instances seeks stronger language.

Key issues for those living in the unincorporated areas include: increased buffers for wetlands and streams, wildlife regulations; the 65-percent set aside for native vegetation on individual lots the 10-percent impervious surface limit, and the use of the Best Available Science documents in driving the new policy and regulations.

Currently, the Growth Management and Unincorporated Areas Committee reviewing these proposals has a very tight schedule. The goal is to complete a review of issues in June and spend the month of July taking action on the proposed ordinances, including amendments. The

Committee's expected date of completion for its review and recommendation to the full Council is July 20, 2004. The full Council then will begin its review of the documents at the end of August through September, aiming for final passage before beginning work on the 2005 budget in October.



I need to hear your viewpoint on these proposed regulations. I encourage you to review the documents to determine the impact these changes will have on you and your property. Then provide your testimony to me as well as to the other Councilmembers at: www.metrokc.gov/council/members/members.htm, or by letter, or in person at a committee meeting.

The proposals are available on-line at www.metrokc.gov/council/cao, or hard copies are available at any King County Public Library.



E-mail Updates

If you would like to receive regular e-mail news updates about upcoming legislation and King County activities in District 12, please call or write to me at (206) 296-1012, or david.ironson@metrokc.gov

On-line Resources

- Parcel Viewer and iMap property information: www.metrokc.gov/gis/mapportal
- Property Tax Information: webapp.metrokc.gov/KCTaxinfo
- Transit Trip Planner: tripplanner.metrokc.gov
- King County Comprehensive Plan: www.metrokc.gov/ddes/compplan
- Transportation Concurrency: www.metrokc.gov/kcdot/tp/concurr/conindex.htm

Land Use

King County Open Space System Plan

The King County Executive submitted the "Open Space System Plan" to the County Council. The plan, prepared by the Natural Resources and Parks Department (DNR-P), provides guidance and direction on the county's open space system which includes: parks, trails, natural areas and working resource lands. The ordinance serves as a plan to provide vision and direction to the open space system and builds upon the 1996 Park, Recreation and Open Space Plan. The plan reflects the recent transition of open space management and operations driven by the recommendations of the Metropolitan Parks Task Force, Parks Levy and Parks Business Plan.

Public comment was provided at hearings on the plan conducted by DNR-P in August and September of 2003 along with an on-line survey. Recently, the K.C. Council's Natural Resource and Utilities Committee completed its review. The Metropolitan King County Council will be conducting a public hearing to consider the ordinance related to the plan, Proposed Substitute Ordinance 2004-0206, in Room 1001, King County Courthouse, Seattle, Washington, on July 19, 2004 at 1:30 p.m. Plan may be viewed at: www.metrokc.gov/parks/news/pdf/prosplan2004

Storage Shed Code

In response to concerns expressed by a constituent, I recently proposed an amendment to King County's update of building and fire codes that allows larger storage sheds in unincorporated areas of the county. The amendment, which was approved unanimously by the Council in June, allows a floor area of 200 square feet for storage sheds, with a maximum roof overhang of 24 inches from the exterior wall. The original proposal would have limited storage sheds to 200 square feet measured by the roof area, which would limit the usable floor space of a storage shed in



2004 Comprehensive Plan/ Development Update

The Council continues work on the major 2004 update to the King County Comprehensive Land Use Plan. Numerous public meetings have been conducted throughout the county, and public testimony is being compiled. The Growth Management and Unincorporated Areas Committee has been holding sessions to review the plan and take further testimony on the plan. While this update is not as controversial as the 2000 Plan Update, there are still some major policy changes. The major changes include policies and regulations on the following topics: use of sustainable development practices for public and private projects; encouraging cities to annex PAAs; allowing cottage housing; limiting exempt wells for subdivisions in Rural Area; allowing additional Agriculture uses and additional support for cottage industries in the Rural Area; modification of water policies; streamlining the TDR program; new transportation concurrency and Levels-of-Service for Urban and Rural Areas; modifying park policies to reflect changes in services; and modification to natural area and wildlife policies together with several land use and area zoning amendments.

For more information or to submit your comments on the 2004 Comprehensive Plan update, please visit the Council's website at: www.metrokc.gov/council/compplan. The Growth Management and Unincorporated Areas Committee is scheduled to complete its review and recommendation to the full Council on July 13, 2004. Public comment will be available on that day and before the full Council this fall. Please contact me with any questions you may have regarding this process.

order to accommodate a roof overhang. In comparison, existing county code allows a storage shed up to 120 square feet of "building area." This update of county building and fire codes was prompted by the state Legislature's adoption last year of new International Building and Fire Codes, to replace the Uniform Building and Fire Codes that currently are in use. The new codes become effective July 1, 2004.



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Information for our community:

- Message from Councilmember Irons
- Land Use Updates
- Transportation Updates

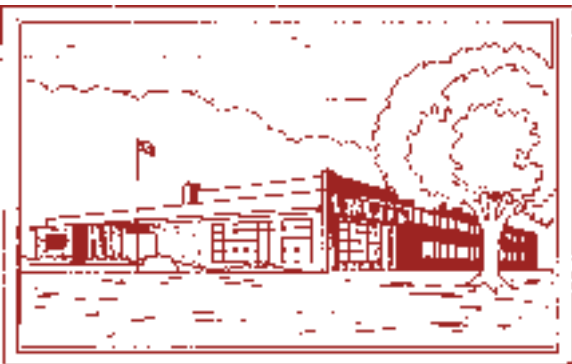
Education

Olympian Coalition

During the past legislative session, I was honored to serve as a representative of the Greater Issaquah Chamber of Commerce on a community-wide education effort with the Olympian Coalition.

The work of this coalition of community leaders was aimed at encouraging adequate state funding for education.

As a former member of the Issaquah School



Board, I am aware of the great

funding challenges facing our public schools, and I appreciated the opportunity to contribute to the effort. I am grateful for the assistance of 5th District Sen. Cheryl Pflug of Hobart and Rep. Glenn Anderson of Fall City for their work on Senate Bill 6211 revising the way school levy amounts are calculated.



Senator Cheryl Pflug



**Representative
Glenn Anderson**